

APRIL 20TH - ICEFALL

BREAKFAST AT 7.00AM AND BY 9.00AM WE WERE IN THE ICEFALL FOR SOME FILMING FOR CHILEAN TV. PIPE OUR CAMERAMAN IS SO GREAT, HE IS THE COMEDIEN OF THE GROUP AND HAS PERFORMED AMAZINGLY IN THE ICEFALL, AS I'D PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED HE HAD NEVER USED CRAMPONS BEFORE. WE WENT TO THE FIRST SET OF LADDERS AND FILMED HERE FOR ABOUT 2 HOURS. DESPITE A SCORCHING HOT DAY, I WAS GLAD TO OBSERVE THAT WE SEEM TO HAVE ALL ACCLIMATISED AND ARE MOVING THROUGH THE ICEFALL MUCH MORE RAPIDLY. AS HENRY TODD TOLD ME WHEN I GET SCARED " TO KEEP BREATHING AND KEEP GOING!" PRETTY GOOD ADVICE!

THE BOYS HAD NO MERCY ON ME TODAY AND I HAVE BEEN MADE TO WALK ACROSS THE LADDER CROSSINGS. PIPE, MISAIL AND KIKO RAPELLED DOWN INTO THE CREVASSE AND FILMED US FROM BELOW AS WE CROSSED THE LADDER. WE MET UP WITH THE ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS CREW ON THE LADDERS, UNDER THE CAPABLE HANDS OF GUIDES LOUIS BENITZ AND MIKE WHO ARE BOTH HIGHLY COMPETENT. ONE GUY, PRESUMABLY HAVING UNDER ANTICIPATED THE STRENGTH OF THE SUN HAD A BOUNTY WRAPPER ATTACHED TO HIS SUNGLASSES TO PROTECT HIS NOSE FROM ITS VICIOUS RAYS. HAVING LOST A FEW PRECIOUS BRAIN CELLS UP HERE, I DIDNT EVEN NOTICE HIS ODD FACE APPAREL UNTIL HE TOLD ME! I GUESS WE ALL LOOK RIDICULOUS TRYING TO SHIELD OURSELVES FROM THE ELEMENTS.. MET A COUPLE OF OTHER CLIMBERS, AN ARGENTINIAN GUIDE CALLED GUSTAVO AND A GUY ON HENRY TODDS TEAM, CHRIS WARNER WHO IS ATTEMPTING TO CLIMB LHOTSE WITHOUT OXYGEN. TONS OF SHERPA TRAFFIC ON THE ICEFALL TODAY HAVING BEEN FERRYING LOADS TO CAMP 2 AND STARTING ON 3. I SAW ALL OUR BOYS WHOM I EMBARRASS NO END BY GIVING THEM BIG HUGS WHEN I SEE THEM (THAT IS WHEN I HAVE THE ENERGY - WITH FILMING THERE IS A LOT OF SITTING AROUND SO I HUGGED THEM ALL TODAY!)

CAMP 3 IS ESTABLISHED NOW AND THERE ARE 2 SETS OF FIXED LINES, EITHER TO TRY AND REDUCE THE TRAFFIC ON THE LHOTSE FACE OR I'D HEARD THAT THE LINES ON THE LEFT WERE FOR THE FILM MAKERS ONLY - BEING THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRES FOR OUR TEAM I THINK WE WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE FILM MAKERS FIXED LINES TOO!!

ONE MORE RESTDAY TOMORROW AND IM RUNNING OUT OF DVD'S.. IVE ASKED MY GIRLFRIEND LISA TO BRING IN A BUNCH WITH HER.. SHE IS DUE TO SPEND A FEW DAYS WITH US ON THE 29TH, I THINK THE BOYS WILL APPROVE OF HER!! IM ABOUT TO WATCH A MOVIE WITH "THE BOOT MAN" ANDRONICO BEFORE DINNER SO ILL SIGN OFF FOR TODAY...